

BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT
PANEL A

FILED

AUG 17 2007

**LESLIE W. STEEN
CLERK**

IN RE: **WILLIAM SCOTT DAVIDSON**
Arkansas Bar ID # 81044
CPC Docket No. 2006-157

FINDINGS AND ORDER

The formal charges of misconduct upon which this Findings and Order is based were developed from information provided to the Committee by United States Bankruptcy Judge Audrey Evans on November 9, 2006. The information related to the representation of Larry Gene Hawkins in bankruptcy case No. 06-ap-01025 in 2006 by Respondent William Scott Davidson, an attorney practicing primarily in Jonesboro, Craighead County, Arkansas. On November 27, 2006, Respondent was served with a formal complaint. He filed a timely response.

Mr. Davidson represented Larry Gene Hawkins in a Chapter 7 bankruptcy case filed October 16, 2005, as No. 05-28385. One of Hawkins creditors, Daedong-USA, Inc., represented by attorney John Peel, filed an adversary proceeding (the "AP") on January 11, 2006, as No. 06-ap-01025. The cases were assigned to Judge Evans. On February 22, 2006, the AP case was set for trial before Judge Evans on May 31, 2006. On May 12, 2006, Judge Evans entered her Order continuing the trial of the AP case to November 8, 2006. On October 31, 2006, Mr. Davidson filed a motion for continuance, stating as the reason that his Arkansas law license was to be suspended for a month beginning the next day, November 1, 2006, as a result of a sanction against him in Committee Case No. CPC 2005-085. Mr. Peel filed a response. The Court granted the motion by Order entered November 9, 2006, and referred the matter to the Committee.

CPC 2005-085 was a complaint by Glenda Tippitt against Mr. Davidson. At a public

hearing conducted on August 18, 2006, the Panel announced that it would impose a one month suspension of license on Mr. Davidson, to only become effective almost two and one half months later, on November 1, 2006, as a courtesy to him and his clients, to give him time to get his practice affairs in order and to protect the interests of his clients who had matters that might have hearings or trials in the few months after August 18, 2006. Mr. Davidson apparently failed to notify either Mr. Peel or the Court prior to October 31, 2006, that his law license was to go into suspended status the next day.

By his conduct here, Mr. Davidson also placed in issue whether the Committee will, in the future, as a courtesy, grant a reasonable delay in the effective date of any future suspension to any attorney, and thereby to the attorney's clients, or make the suspension effective immediately upon a decision being rendered, thereby possibly causing great harm and prejudice to some clients.

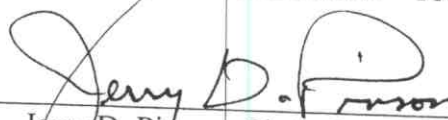
Upon consideration of the formal complaint and attached exhibit materials, the response to it, and other matters before it, and the Arkansas Model Rules of Professional Conduct, Panel A of the Arkansas Supreme Court Committee on Professional Conduct finds:

A. Mr. Davidson's conduct violated Rule 8.4(d) in that his conduct in waiting until October 31, 2006, to notify the Court and opposing counsel of his law license suspension that was to start November 1, 2006, caused the Court to be forced to avoid prejudice to his client by granting a trial continuance from November 8, 2006, or put the dischargeability of his client's debt of at least \$40,437.76 at risk, conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice. Arkansas Rule 8.4(d) provides that it is professional misconduct for a lawyer to engage in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice.

WHEREFORE, it is the decision and order of the Arkansas Supreme Court Committee on Professional Conduct, acting through its authorized Panel A, that **WILLIAM SCOTT DAVIDSON**, Arkansas Bar ID# 81044, be, and hereby is, **REPRIMANDED** for his conduct in this matter, he is fined \$500.00, and he is assessed Committee costs of \$50.00. The fine and costs assessed herein shall be payable by cashier's check or money order payable to the "Clerk, Arkansas Supreme Court" delivered to the Office of Professional Conduct within thirty (30) days of the date this Findings and Order is filed of record with the Clerk of the Arkansas Supreme Court.

ARKANSAS SUPREME COURT COMMITTEE
ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT - PANEL A

By: _____


Jerry D. Pinson, Chair, Panel A

Date: _____

